

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 02435 210440Z
ACTION CPR-01

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R 210315Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3693
INFO USCFC BURTON ISLAND
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC
COMDT COGARD WASHDC
COMPAC AREA COGARD SAN FRANCISCO CA
COGD ELEVEN LONG BEACH CA
COGD FOURTEEN HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 2435

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OCLR, AS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF USCFC BURTON ISLAND TO MELBOURNE

REFS: A) MELBOURNE 0402; B) MELBOURNE 2395 (NOTAL)
C) MELBOURNE 2396 (NOTAL)

1. USCFC BURTON ISLAND'S SECOND VISIT TO MELBOURNE (DECEMBER 10-14) WAS, LIKE ITS FIRST (REF A) (MARCH 2-8), AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. THE TIMING OF THE VISIT WAS IDEAL: BURTON ISLAND'S MARCH VISIT HAD BEEN THE FIRST HIGHLY-VISIBLE UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN MELBOURNE FOR THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR AND THE SHIP'S SECOND VISIT CLOSED 1976 ON A MOST WARM NOTE. IN HIS TELEGRAM TO CONSUL GENERAL BRAND (REF B) COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN JAMES M. FOURNIER STATED THAT THE SHIP LEFT MELBOURNE QUOTE WITH MEMORIES REFRESHED AND FRIENDSHIPS RENEWED UNQUOTE.

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2. HIGH POINTS OF THE VISIT BEGAN WITH VIP SATURDAY LUNCHEON ON BOARD HOSTED BY CAPTAIN FOURNIER FOR FEDERAL SCIENCE MINISTER SENATOR JAMES WEBSTER, VICTORIAN TRANSPORT MINISTER JOSEPH RAFFERTY, MELBOURNE CITY COUNCILLOR DAVID WANG, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE LORRIE NEWALL, MANAGING DIRECTOR GEORGE MACKAY

OF ELECTROLYTIC AND CONSUL GENERAL BRAND. THIS LUNCHEON WAS PRECEDED BY HELICOPTER FROM THE SHIP FLYING THE SIX GUESTS ON AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF MELBOURNE AND PORT PHILLIP BAY BEFORE LANDING ON BOARD. GUSTY CONDITIONS ON SUNDAY PREVENTED THE HELICOPTERS FROM FLYING SECOND GROUP OF SIX VIPS; BUT AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF THE SHIP WAS SUBSTITUTED AND QUITE WELL RECEIVED. IMPORTANT OUTCOME OF THIS SECOND TOUR, WHICH INCLUDED PROMINENT MELBOURNE COLUMNIST KEITH DUNSTAN, WAS APPEARANCE ON MONDAY IN MELBOURNE SUN (DAILY WITH CIRC OF 624,000) OF LONG ARTICLE ON SHIP, ITS VISIT, AND ITS MISSIONS IN THE ANTARCTIC AND THE ARCTIC.

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS ALSO PRECLUDED PLANNED SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE (SAREX) FOR SUNDAY, HOWEVER, CONTACTS WITH CAPTAIN FOURNIER AND MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERA COAST GUARD (AVCG) ESTABLISHED IN MARCH WERE RENEWED. CLOSE BONDS WERE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN SHIP AND NEW CITY ADMINISTRATION. MELBOURNE LORD MAYOR DONALD OSBORNE (NOT IN OFFICE DURING MARCH VISIT) INVITED SIX OFFICERS TO TOWN HALL'S CHRISTMAS PARTY WHILE CEREMONY HELD MONDAY AT TOWN HALL FOR PRESENTATION BY CAPTAIN FOURNIER OF REPRODUCTION OF HISTORIC PAINTING OF COAST GUARD LIFEBOAT RESCUE (ORIGINAL IN CG ACADEMY) TO LORD MAYOR WAS COVERED BY THREE MEDIA REPS AND YIELDED GOOD TV COVERAGE THAT EVENING.

4. LARGE RECEPTION HELD SUNDAY EVENING BY CONSUL GENERAL BRAND AT RESIDENCE ATTENDED BY MINISTER WEBSTER, NOIC VICTORIA COMMODORE DACRE SMYTH, RAN, REPS FROM AVCG, AAA AND OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HELPED ORGANIZE VISIT, RAN OFFICERS FROM HMAS DERWENT, USS ENTERPRISE'S ESCORT SHIP DURING RECENT VISIT TO HOBART WHICH NOW IN MELBOURNE, AND FROM HMAS SWAN, ALSO IN PORT. INVITATIONS WERE MADE TO ALL RAN OFFICERS AND RECEPTION SERVED AS A UNIQUELY EFFECTIVE WAY TO RETURN DERWENT'S HOSPITALITY TO ENTERPRISE DURING HOBART VISIT.

5. BURTON ISLAND WAS OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC VISITING ON WEEKEND AND BY NOW TRIED-AND-TRUE DIAL-A-SAILOR TELEPHONE PROVIDED AN OVER-ABUNDANCE OF INVITATIONS FROM MELBURNIANS.

6. CAPTAIN FOURNIER, HIS OFFICERS AND MEN DESERVE HIGH PRAISE FOR THE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION THEY MADE ONCE AGAIN ON THE MELBOURNE COMMUNITY AND FOR THEIR COOPERATIVENESS IN WORKING WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL TO MAXIMIZE GOODWILL GENERATED BY THIS VISIT.
BRAND

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